

British AFRICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

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Hon. Secretary—CAPT. G. P. ROSENBERG.

Treasurer—J. BIDDULPH, Esq. 45 CHANCERY CROSS ; by whom, and W. HANKEY, Esq. 7 Fenchurch Street,
Subscriptions will be received.

FROM the attention and support which the proposition for establishing a "BRITISH AFRICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY" has received, the Committee is induced to lay before the public a short outline of the intentions of the Society, which has for its object the introduction of the blessings of Christianity and Civilization to Africa.

Experience has, unhappily, proved, that all attempts to colonize Western Africa with Europeans, although attended with an appalling sacrifice of life and an enormous expense, have hitherto proved but of little avail: and the contemplation of our connection with Africa leaves us deeply impressed with the weight of our national responsibilities towards that continent, which has hitherto derived but little benefit from our well-meant endeavours to promote her improvement of late years, while she so long and so dreadfully suffered from the large share which this country took in all the enormities of the Slave Trade.

Among the causes by which all our good intentions have been frustrated, the principal is, the baneful effect of the climate upon Europeans.

The Society proposes, if aided by the sanction of the Government, to establish a Colony of Free Blacks and People of Colour;—the direction of which will be under the immediate controul of the Society.

To raise the moral condition of the Natives, the Society apprehends that its attention should be first directed to the developement of native energies, by the Propagation of the Gospel, by incentives to industry, and by the establishment of Schools.

From inquiries which the Committee has made, it has been ascertained that many educated and enlightened Blacks and Coloured People may be found in our own Colonies, ready to avail themselves of the advantages held out by the Society; while, at the same time, the Colony will be open to all Free People of Colour.

The Society feels that it has a strong claim to public support, on behalf of the Re-captured and Liberated Africans at Sierra Leone. At the present moment, there are nearly 20,000 of these unfortunate people, for whose improvement the resources of that colony are very inadequate. It is hoped that the proposed colony will especially prove an asylum to poor sufferers of that description, the number of whom is continually increased by fresh captures.

The ground on which the Society calculates its success, is the fact of a thriving Settlement of this character now existing on that coast, at Cape Mesurado, lat. $6^{\circ} 10' N.$ long. $10^{\circ} 40' W.$ about three hundred miles south-east of Sierra Leone. This Colony, called LIBERIA, was established in the year 1821, by a Society of philanthropic and benevolent individuals in the United States, and commenced with only twenty-eight settlers: in twelve years they have increased their number to three thousand Colonists; and twenty-five thousand Natives have united with them, all evincing the greatest desire that their children might be educated at the Schools there established: and where, until within a few short years, nothing but the gloom of Heathenism prevailed, Christian Temples have been erected, in which large Congregations assemble for the worship of their Creator;—and this on a spot once a principal Mart for the Slave Trade, but where that abominable traffic is now unknown. And such, under Providence, will necessarily be the effect, wherever the operations of this Society can be extended.

To the various Missionary and Religious Societies of Great Britain and other Christian Countries, such an establishment will afford the means of a secure and easy communication with the Natives of Africa; and, eventually, the supply of a class of well-educated Native Teachers, from which the most important benefits may be derived; while, at the same time, openings will be afforded for the diffusion of the Scriptures, even among Tribes far remote from the immediate Settlement, and scarcely known even by name to Europeans. Of this, a happy instance has already occurred at Liberia: several of the Traders, who have visited that Settlement from great distances inland, have been found to be acquainted with the Arabic Language, and have thankfully accepted copies of the Arabic New Testament; and the British and Foreign Bible Society, with its usual promptitude, has availed itself of this opening, by placing several copies at Governor Meehlin's disposal.

Of the Commerce of Liberia, the following account is given, in a Letter to the American Society, by the Colonial Agent; dated May 1, 1832:—

“Within the preceding year, 59 Vessels have visited our port, for the purposes of traffic. Of these,
32 were American;
25 British; and
2 French.

“Our Exports amounted to 125,549 dollars 16 cents.; and the amount of produce and merchandise on hand, on the 1st of January 1832, was 47,400 dollars.

“The articles of export consisted chiefly of camwood, ivory, palm-oil, tortoiseshell, and some gold, procured of the Natives from the interior, and at various places along the coast.

“The trade with the interior has also been proportionally increased; and our town is now becoming a place of resort for Natives from the Condo Country, and countries beyond, bordering on Fouta Jallow.

“The Mandingoes also visit us in considerable numbers; and are the means of making us known to the Natives of the interior.”

—and accounts as late as June 20th, of the present year, confirm the continued prosperity of the colony, and the development of its commercial resources.

The sense which the Natives entertain of the benefits to be derived from this colony cannot be better illustrated than by stating the fact, that the advantages resulting from intercourse with their brethren in a civilized state have excited the attention of other tribes, who have offered a large tract of land, without purchase, for the establishment of a similar colony;—thus proving their friendly disposition. “Cape Mount, in lat. $6^{\circ} 40' N.$ long. $11^{\circ} 15' W.$, about 50 miles north-west of Monrovia, the principal town of Liberia,” is the district referred to; it is situated on the north bank of a fine river, in a populous neighbourhood, having a direct intercourse with the interior: and is extremely fertile, and capable of producing every article of tropical growth, particularly cotton, rice, and maize.

After a careful investigation and consultation with persons well acquainted with this coast, the Society has resolved, that this is the most eligible spot for the commencement of its operations. A correspondence has, consequently, been entered into with Governor Meehlin, of Liberia; to ascertain how this grant can, with the consent of the Natives, be made over directly to the “British Society.”—Steps have been taken to give further effect to this negotiation, by the influence of respectable and intelligent individuals at Sierra Leone; and the Society has been assured of cordial co-operation from many of our fellow countrymen residing in or connected with Africa.

It has been found that a settler may for the sum of £.10 be conveyed from the Continent of America, and established in Africa; but the Society has reason to reckon, in some instances, upon a class of emigrants who will require but little pecuniary aid.

It is of the utmost importance that, on the receipt of Governor Meehlin's reply, which is expected in a short time, the Committee should be provided with the means of meeting the expenses attendant upon the commencement of active operations: they therefore feel themselves under the necessity of requesting the early and liberal support of the friends of Africa; and will also be thankful for any local information or suggestions that may contribute to mature or improve their plans.

9, New Broad Street, 10th Oct. 1833.

The following **RESOLUTIONS** were passed at the Meeting for the Organization of the Society, held in Hanover-Square Rooms, July 3, 1833.

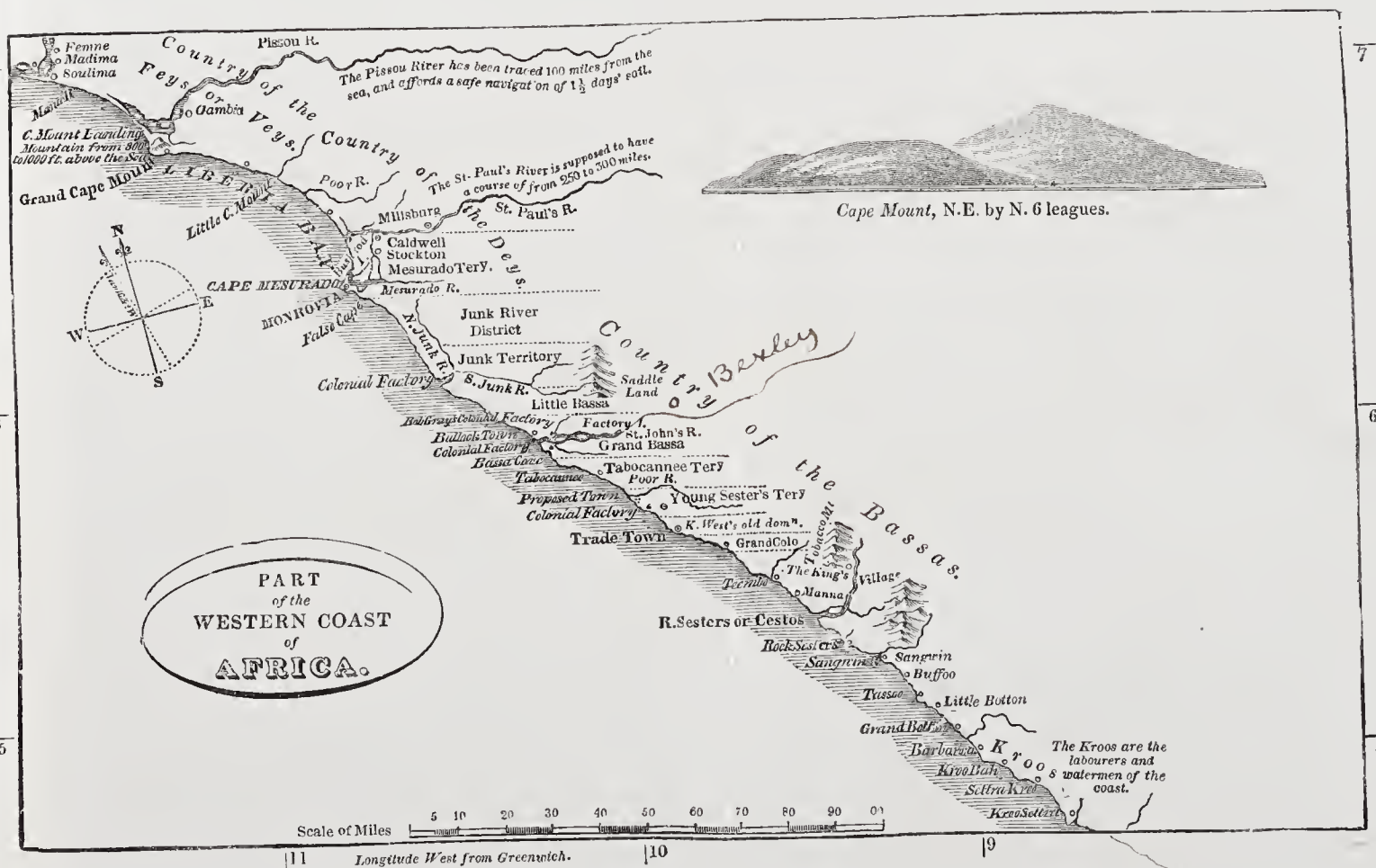
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SUSSEX IN THE CHAIR.

"That Colonies, established on judicious principles, on the Coast of Africa, and composed of Settlers of African Race, either born free or emancipated, appear calculated to put an effectual stop to the Slave Trade; and to introduce, under the guidance of Divine Providence, the blessings of Christianity and Civilization, by affording the assistance of pious and well-educated instructors of bodily constitutions adapted to the climate, as well as by the immediate influence and example of the Settlers.

"That a Society be formed, under the name of the *British African Colonization Society*;—and that its objects be, to promote the establishment of Christianity and Civilization among the Natives of Africa, chiefly by the employment of persons of African birth or descent; and to take such measures as may tend to the entire abolition of the Slave Trade, which is still, unhappily, carried on to an alarming extent on the African Coast.

"That for these purposes they will, among other measures, enter into correspondence and co-operation with the American Colonization Society, and with the several Missionary and other Religious and Charitable Societies in Great Britain, the United States, and elsewhere, in their endeavours to raise the civil, moral, and religious condition of the Africans.

"That every Subscriber of not less than One Guinea per Annum, or Ten Guineas in one sum, be a Member."



Cape Palmas
Gulf of Guinea

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Ann. Sub.				Donations.				Ann. Sub.				Donations.			
£. s. d.				£. s. d.				£. s. d.				£. s. d.			
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Bexley, Lord				100	0	0	Hervey, Lord Arthur	10	10	0		
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Bevan, Mrs.		21	0	0	Jeffrey, Rt. Hon. F.	10	10	0		
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